

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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15.12.2004

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Dariusz Rosati and Bogusław Sonik,

on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp

Lapse date: 15.3.2005

**Written declaration on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas 60 years ago, on 27 January 1945, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of Hitler's extermination camps, built in May 1940 by the Germans in the suburbs of Oświęcim, was liberated,
- B. whereas the greatest crimes in the history of mankind were committed in Auschwitz-Birkenau, where hundreds of thousands of Jews, Poles, Russians, Gypsies, Romanians, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks and prisoners of other nationalities were murdered systematically and with premeditation; whereas from 1942 to 1944, the camp was the site of genocide perpetrated against European Jews as part of the Nazi plan for the total extermination of the Jewish people; whereas the prisoners were executed by firing squad or gassed, or died of hunger, disease and as a result of medical experiments, with the total number of victims estimated to be some 1.5 million people,
- C. whereas Europe must not forget its own history: the concentration and extermination camps built by the German Nazis are among the most shameful and painful pages of the history of our continent; whereas the crimes at Auschwitz must live on in the memory of future generations, as a warning against genocide of this kind, rooted in contempt for other human beings, hatred, anti-Semitism, racism and totalitarianism,
- D. whereas Europe must take a stand against attempts to falsify history with the spread of views which call into question the crimes committed by the Nazis; whereas attempts are also being made to shift responsibility for these crimes onto other nations, and to present the victims as oppressors,
  1. Pays homage to all those who lost their lives at the hands of Hitler's butchers;
  2. Points out that a remembrance of its history forms the basis for lasting peace and reconciliation in Europe;
  3. Rejects and condemns revisionist views as shameful and contrary to historical truth;
  4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Parliaments of the Member States.